

Senate File 310 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 310

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A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the establishment of a transitional
- 2 bilingual education pilot program.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **256.24 Transitional bilingual**
2 **education pilot program.**

3 1. Subject to an appropriation of sufficient funds by the
4 general assembly, the department shall establish a transitional
5 bilingual education pilot program designed to allow students
6 who are limited English proficient to achieve long-term
7 academic success through English-medium instruction in general
8 education classrooms that initially includes at least two hours
9 of instruction to the student each school day in the student's
10 native language; provided, however, that the native language
11 of the student who is limited English proficient is used to
12 support the student's development of English and content
13 learning and is then gradually phased out of instruction as a
14 student's English proficiency increases.

15 2. The program shall consist of three pilot projects, with
16 one located in an elementary school, one located in a middle
17 school, and one located in a high school. Each pilot project
18 shall be conducted for a minimum of one year, subject to an
19 appropriation by the general assembly to the department for
20 that purpose.

21 3. The department shall establish a pilot project
22 grant application process that specifies the design and
23 implementation expectations of each grantee; criteria for the
24 selection of participating public or accredited nonpublic
25 schools; and objective, valid, and reliable assessments which
26 all grantees will use to assist teachers and the department in
27 measuring and evaluating the academic achievement of students
28 assigned to the pilot project in comparison with students at
29 the same grade level who are limited English proficient and are
30 participating in an English immersion program.

31 4. A student enrolled in the pilot program shall be assigned
32 additional weighting as provided in section 280.4.

33 5. The department may retain up to five percent of
34 the amount appropriated for the pilot program for the
35 administration of the program and for the development and

1 implementation of an independent, external program and results
2 evaluation.

3 6. The department shall submit a final report that
4 includes a summary of the results of the pilot projects and
5 the department's findings and recommendations to the general
6 assembly by January 15, 2026.

7 7. Notwithstanding section 8.33, unencumbered or
8 unobligated funds remaining on June 30 of a fiscal year
9 ending on or before June 30, 2026, for which the funds were
10 appropriated for the pilot program shall not revert but shall
11 be available for expenditure for the following fiscal year for
12 purposes of this section.

13 8. This section is repealed July 1, 2026.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill directs the department of education to establish,
18 subject to an appropriation of sufficient funds by the general
19 assembly, a transitional bilingual education pilot program
20 designed to allow a student who is limited English proficient
21 to achieve long-term academic success through English-medium
22 instruction in general education classrooms that also includes
23 initially at least two hours a day of instruction in the
24 student's native language; provided, however, that the native
25 language of the student who is limited English proficient
26 is used to support the student's development of English
27 and content learning and is then gradually phased out of
28 instruction as a student's English proficiency increases.

29 The program shall consist of three pilot projects, located
30 in an elementary school, a middle school, and a high school.
31 Each pilot project shall be conducted for a minimum of one
32 year.

33 The department must establish an application process,
34 criteria for the selection of participating public or
35 accredited nonpublic schools, and assessments which all

1 grantees will use to measure and evaluate the academic
2 achievement of the students in comparison with students at the
3 same grade level who are limited English proficient and are
4 participating in an English immersion program.

5 A student enrolled in the pilot program shall be assigned
6 additional weighting as provided in statute for limited English
7 proficient students.

8 The department may retain up to 5 percent of the amount
9 appropriated for the pilot program for the administration of
10 the program and for the development and implementation of the
11 evaluation.

12 The department shall submit a final report that includes
13 a summary of the results of the pilot projects and the
14 department's findings and recommendations to the general
15 assembly by January 15, 2026.

16 Moneys appropriated for purposes of the program do not
17 revert at the end of the fiscal year but remain available for
18 expenditure for the following fiscal year for purposes of the
19 program.

20 The Code section establishing the program is repealed July
21 1, 2026.